



Questions and Answers: Emergency Washing Requirements for Pesticide Handlers WAC 296-307-130

- Does this fact sheet address routine (non-Q: emergency) washing?
- No, this fact sheet focuses on Worker Protection Standard requirements that A: affect pesticide handlers' access to water for decontamination during emergencies only.
- Q: Why is emergency washing required?
- Emergency washing is required to reduce the risk for serious or debilitating injuries and A: illnesses due to eye and skin contact with harmful pesticides.
- Are showers required at mixing and loading Q: and at decontamination sites?
 - No, however, showers can be an acceptable solution for full-body emergency washing where an adequate water supply is available or provided.
- Q: How much water is required?

Whether there's a plumbed or portable shower or some other source of water available, a minimum of 10 gallons of water for one employee or 20 gallons for two or more employees is required for emergency full-body decontamination.

If you want to go with the minimum, just make sure you determine if it's enough for full-body decontamination needs. In addition, you may want to factor in how much water would be needed for your non-emergency decontamination needs.



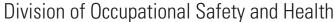
Showers aren't required but may be the best solution for full body emergency washing when an adequate supply of water is available.

OVER



A:

A:









Q:

What are the requirements for emergency eye flush water?

A:

Employers must assure that a minimum of one pint of water is immediately available to each handler who is performing a task for which the pesticide label requires protective eyewear. To be immediately available means the water must be carried by the handler, in the vehicle or aircraft, or otherwise readily be accessible.

Q:

When is an emergency eyewash required?

A plumbed or portable emergency eyewash must be placed at permanent pesticide mixing or loading sites. Also, when a pesticide label requires protective eyewear, an emergency eyewash must be provided at mixing or loading stations and at PPE decontamination sites. The eyewash station must continuously deliver a minimum of 0.4 gallons of water (or 1.5 liters) per minute for at least 15 minutes.

Q:

Must water used for decontamination be "potable"?

No, however, the water must be of a quality and temperature that will not cause illness or harm when it contacts the worker's skin or eyes, or if it's swallowed. For example, don't allow the use of water that could harbor hazardous chemical residues or bacteria (or other pathogens).

A:

Pesticide contamination can be a problem if water is stored in a tank that is also used for mixing pesticides. When this is the case, the water supply line must be equipped with a properly functioning check valve, air gap, or other device that will prevent pesticides from siphoning back into the water source.

Q:

What is required in remote areas?

A:

For tasks performed not more than one-quarter mile from the nearest point reachable by cars, trucks, tractors, and other vehicles, the decontamination supplies may be kept at the vehicle access point. In these circumstances water from springs, streams, lakes, or other sources may be used for emergency decontamination if such water is more readily available than the water at the access point.

Q:

Can I store decontamination supplies in areas that are treated or will be accessed during a restricted-entry interval?

A:

Yes, as long as you have running water or water in enclosed containers and you make sure soap, single-use towels, and a clean change of clothing are in enclosed containers, protected from pesticide contamination and located so they are readily accessible to the handler while they are performing handling activities.

Q:

Where can I get more information about this for pesticide handlers?

A:

More information can be found at www.Lni.wa.gov/Pesticides, including a link to relevant rules (WAC 296-307-130 and others) and resources such as the *How to Comply* manual and the Washington State Department of Agriculture's *Manual Insert*.

This fact sheet was produced in collaboration with the Washington State Department of Agriculture. For more information, visit **www.agr.wa.gov**.